

RVA is not available.

Immune Globulin

Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG): HRIG (Hyperab® and Imogam® Rabies) is antirabies gamma globulin concentrated by cold ethanol fractionation from the plasma of immunized human donors. Rabies neutralizing antibody content is standardized to contain 150 international units (IU) per ml. It is supplied in 2 ml (300 IU) and 10 ml (1,500 IU) vials for pediatric and adult use, respectively.

RATIONALE OF TREATMENT

Physicians must evaluate each possible rabies exposure. Local or state public health officials should be consulted if questions arise about the need for prophylaxis. Found in the middle of this manual is a **Postexposure Prophylaxis Decision Tree** that can be used as a convenient guide in determining the need for PEP.

MANAGEMENT OF BITING ANIMALS

A healthy pet dog or cat that bites a person should be confined and observed for 10 days and evaluated by a veterinarian at the first sign of illness during confinement. Any illness in the animal should be reported immediately to the local health department. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal should be humanely killed in a manner that preserves the head in an undamaged state, and its head removed and shipped, at 32 to 45 degrees Fahrenheit, for examination by a qualified laboratory designated by the Texas Department of Health. Any stray or unwanted dog or cat that bites a person should be killed immediately and the head submitted for rabies examination.

Signs of rabies in wild animals cannot be interpreted reliably; therefore, any wild animal that bites or scratches a person should be killed at once (without damage to the head) and the brain submitted for examination for rabies. If the brain is negative by fluorescent-antibody examination for rabies, the saliva can be assumed to contain no virus, and the bitten person need not be treated. Exotic animals, such as lions, tigers, monkeys and ferrets, that have been kept in captivity for extended periods of time are unlikely to be infected with rabies and can be isolated and observed for thirty days rather than killed if sufficient reason exists to keep the animal.